

Studies in Hebrews



Lesson XII

Text: Chapter 8, verses 6-13

6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. **7** For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. **8** But God found fault with the people and said:

“The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. **9** It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

“**10** This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **11** No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. **12** For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”^[a]

13 By calling this covenant ‘new,’ he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

Footnotes: a. Jeremiah 31:31-34

Key Words

Ministry (Gr. *leitourgia*) = a sacred service

Covenant (Gr. *diatheke*) = a binding agreement sealed with a solemn promise

Mediator (Gr. *mesites*) = a “go between” and “one who acts as a guarantee”

Obsolete (Gr. *palaios*) = outmoded and therefore replaced by something new

*Source: *Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*

Questions for Group Discussion

1. What ministry has Jesus received? His ministry is superior to what other ministry? (vv 1-5) Why is it superior? (vs. 6)
2. When the writer makes mention of a “first covenant” and a “second covenant,” what specifically is he referring to? (cf. Hebrews 7:11-12; Exodus 24:6-8; Luke 22:20)
3. What was the main problem with the first covenant? (vv. 7-9; cf. Hebrews 10:1-4)
4. The prophet Jeremiah foretold (vv. 10-12) that this new covenant would bring four basic outcomes:
 - a. God will internalize his l_____, putting them in our m_____ and writing them on our h_____. (vs. 10; cf. Romans 8:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:2-6)
 - b. The LORD will recognize us as his p_____ and give us the privilege of calling him our G_____. (vs. 10; cf. John 1:12-13)
 - c. There will be widespread r_____ which will lead people into a personal r_____ with God. (vs. 11; cf. John 6:45-48; 1 John 2:27)
 - d. God will completely f_____ our sins, never to r_____ them against us. (vs. 12; 1 John 1:8-9)
5. Can both covenants be binding at the same time? Why or why not? (vs. 13; Galatians 3:10-14)